



Brentwood Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

January 2015

Dear Member

Happy New Year to you all. And I hope it brings prosperity to you and your business. As I hope you know, Chamber is here to do whatever we can to help you succeed.

Just before Christmas we had two successful networking events. First, the monthly (December) **Business Breakfast**, sponsored by The Management Mechanic (Colin Barber).



Then, on 17th December, we held a very well-attended **Chamber Christmas Lunch**, again at the Marygreen Manor Hotel. An excellent traditional Turkey meal (with other options of

course) was followed by a talk from the inspirational **Headteacher of Brentwood County High School, Stephen Drew.**

A foremost educationalist, Stephen Drew has appeared in a number of television documentaries and radio broadcasts. He confirmed an increasingly widely held view that today's school students are better-behaved and harder-working than ever (contrary to some ill-informed stereotypes). This bodes well for the next generation of people entering the workforce and for those who employ them.

Brentwood County High School has kindly offered to host our Annual Members meeting and AGM on Thursday 21st May 2015. Please make a note of this in your diaries.

2015 will present a number of challenges, as any year does. But this year we have the uncertainties of the political landscape, much of it to be determined by the electorate in May.

Economic indicators are looking more promising for the business environment and the recent significant reduction in oil prices could have short-term benefits - though downsides include market uncertainties..

We naturally hope that this long-anticipated economic upturn will lead to more businesses joining Chamber. As we have often said, **membership is our life-blood** and we need to keep up recruitment, as long-established members move out of the area, retire or 'shut-up-shop' - the inevitable ebb and flow of any business association.

As an incentive, **we offer a free bottle of champagne for anyone who successfully introduces a new member.**



We are planning an even fuller programme of networking events in the coming year, with some new and even unusual events. Keep an eye out for announcements, in this Newsletter, on our website, and on Twitter.

You will see that **this Newsletter is sponsored** by Chamber member Havering College. You, too, can enjoy this degree of publicity for a modest price to cover costs. **Please get in touch to book your edition.**

May we wish you every success for the year ahead.

**Mike Hawkins,
Chief Executive**

This Newsletter is sponsored by



Havering College of Further & Higher Education

Ardleigh Green Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM11 2LL

Work with us at **Havering College of Further and Higher Education** and be confident your business training is in safe hands. We have a great track record with many of our business customers returning to us again and again for recruitment, training and apprenticeships.

Contact our Business Services team on: 01708 462800 or email: employerenquiry@havering-college.ac.uk

HAVERING COLLEGE READY FOR WORK PASSPORT IS JUST THE JOB



HAVERING College of Further and Higher Education has launched a new scheme to give students a passport to success in securing a job.

The college's Ready for Work Passport has been designed in response to the top ten skills employers look for when they recruit.

All students will undertake the programme alongside their main course of study and those who complete all five modules will achieve the Havering College Ready for Work Passport award to show they are employable.

The college has worked in partnership with LifeSkills Barclays to develop the scheme which has been unveiled to students across all college campuses in Hornchurch, Harold Hill, Rainham and Brentwood.

The Our Talented Future employment consultancy is also supporting the delivery of the scheme.

The Passport covers such skills as communication, confidence, resilience, CV writing, personal statement writing, interview success and money management.

Havering College Enterprise Hub co-ordinator Dolly Odebode said: "The Ready for Work Passport has been designed in response to a survey conducted with employers who stated the top ten skills they are looking for when they are recruiting staff.

"The purpose is to encourage and develop the employability skills of Havering College students so that when they go to a potential employer they are ready with all the skills they need to apply with confidence.

"Our students will be able to prove to an employer they are job ready and are a more suitable candidate than anyone else. Those applying to university will benefit too."

Students will also work to achieve good academic performance in maths and English and complete Havering College's Certificate in Enterprise to prepare them for the option of self-employment or running their own business.

Speaking at the college's Ready for Work Passport launch event, Faye Jordan - senior programme manager for LifeSkills created with Barclays – said: "We are really thrilled to be working with Havering College on the roll out of the Ready for Work programme. It is a fantastic initiative to support college students in getting ready for work.

"We are delighted the LifeSkills resources will form a central part of this activity. It's a great way for teachers and their students to find out how they can do more to improve their employability skills. I really hope it will give all the students a massive boost."

Adam Watling, co-founder of Our Talented Future, said: "I think the Ready to Work Passport scheme is a fantastic initiative and it is great to see Havering College offering this opportunity to their students. With the support of Barclays and Our Talented Future I am sure that the process will enable all involved to enhance their chances of finding work and having a successful career in whatever field they choose."

For further information on all courses at Havering College, call our admissions team on 01708 462801, email information@havering-college.ac.uk or see www.havering-college.ac.uk

Members News



Chartered
Institute
of Credit
Management

LOCAL BUSINESS INSTITUTE STARTS NEW YEAR BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

On 1 January, members of the local branch of a National business organisation celebrated Royal success.

The Institute of Credit Management (ICM), whose East of England branch is a member of the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce, has formally become the Chartered Institute of Credit Management (CICM) following the granting of a Royal Charter, confirming its position as the recognised standard in credit management, keeping the cash flowing for British businesses.

Richard Brown, East of England Branch Chairman of the CICM, believes that the new status is arguably the most significant achievement in the Institute's 75-year history: "Recognition affirms the quality and integrity of our Institute, our qualifications, and our members, and the critical role they play in supporting local businesses," Richard says.



*Vice Chairman Carol Baker of Hutton based House of Words Ltd and
Chairman Richard Brown of Buttsbury Consulting in Billericay,
representing the Branch at an event at the House of Lords*

To attain the Royal Charter, the ICM had to demonstrate the tangible support that its members deliver, and the high level of qualification they are expected to achieve. It also had to demonstrate a track record of achievement, and was helped by such initiatives as the Managing Cashflow Guides, the Prompt Payment Code (PPC), and the Start up Loans Company in which the Institute has been closely involved. In granting a Charter, the issue of 'public interest' also had to be addressed.

The CICM East of England Branch will be holding their AGM at 17.45 on Thursday 29th January at the offices of FRP Advisory LLP in Brentwood.

NLP Discovery Day

Chamber Executive Committee member, Colin Barber (The Management Mechanic), has been utilising Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP) as a Business Consultant and Trainer for over 20 years. He now runs a range of training programmes on this fascinating subject, including a Discovery Day for those who want to find out more.

It is an excellent introduction and is ideal for anyone who has no or very little knowledge of the subject. On February 17th, in association with the Holiday Inn Brentwood, Colin will be running a Discovery Day exclusively for Chamber members at the reduced price of £95 (provided you book before 31st January).

For more information and to book your place, contact Colin Barber –

ColinBarber@ManagementMechanic.com

Or book directly on Eventbrite:

<http://ManagementMechanic-NLPDiscoveryDay-BCC.eventbrite.co.uk>

Dates for your Diary

Executive Committee Meeting Dates for 2015

15th January, 19th February, 19th March, 16th April, 21st May – AGM,
18th June, 16th July, 17th September, 15th October and 19th November

If you have any issues you want to be raised at an Executive Committee meeting, please contact the Chamber office a week or so before the relevant meeting and we will put it on the agenda

Email: info@brentwoodchambers.co.uk

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ NETWORKING EVENTS 2014 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Business Breakfast, 7.30 am – 9.00 am Friday 9th January 2015 ★

Marygreen Manor Hotel, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NR

Sponsored by Havering College

★ Taste of Thai, 7.00pm – 9.00pm, Tuesday 27th January 2015 ★

Crown Street Café, 25 Crown Street, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4BA

★ Business Breakfast, 7.30 am – 9.00 am Friday 13th February 2015 ★

Marygreen Manor Hotel, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NR

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See website www.brentwoodchambers.co.uk for more details & to book your place

Sign Off

By separate post, you will be receiving our invoice for the 2015 annual subscription. We have maintained it at last year's level. We hope you agree it represents good value for money and we certainly hope that you take advantage of the services we offer.

Of course we are always looking for ways to increase the benefits to members; and perhaps we can look to you, our members, to let us know how we can improve our services. In the past year, we made significant improvements to our website and now, among other things, you can advertise any of your events on it. But if there is anything we have so far missed and you feel we should be doing, please let us know.

One of our members, St Francis Hospice, is holding a fund-raising event (an 'Audience with Elvis') on 13th March at De Rougement Manor Hotel. If you want to support this very worthy charity, please visit our website under 'Member Events' to find out more.

Finally, it saddens me to have to report that Gerald Anderson, a Chamber member and Executive Committee member for many years (and past Treasurer), died just before Christmas. He worked very hard for Chamber, as he did for other voluntary organisations, and he will be sorely missed.

Mike Hawkins

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